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## **Special Honors' Night and Graduation Edition**

# **NB The Bell Ringer NB**

Montgomery Bell Academy 4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205 June 1, 2000 Volume 56, Number 6

## **MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY**



# **CLASS OF**



**News ... 2-3 Editorials ... 4 Opinions ... 5 Ads ... 6 Entertainment ... 7 Seniors ... 8**

## College Choices of the Class of 2000

<b>Neil Alden</b> <i>Clemson University</i>	<b>Charlie Ezzell</b> <i>University of the South</i>	<b>Jeremy Mazza</b> <i>University of Miami</i>	<b>Ben Sabel</b> <i>University of Miami</i>
<b>Mike Anand</b> <i>Purdue University</i>	<b>Robert Farringer</b> <i>Auburn University</i>	<b>Andy McDermott</b> <i>Centre College</i>	<b>Collin Sanders</b> <i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>
<b>Andy Andrews</b> <i>Hendrix College</i>	<b>Halsey Fischer</b> <i>Southern Methodist University</i>	<b>Mark McDonald</b> <i>University of Virginia</i>	<b>Josh Sanders</b> <i>University of Mississippi</i>
<b>Tom Atkinson</b> <i>Auburn University</i>	<b>Bryan Fischer</b> <i>Louisiana State University</i>	<b>Brad McDowell</b> <i>Duke University</i>	<b>Barton Simons</b> <i>Yale University</i>
<b>Jared Averbuch</b> <i>University of Colorado at Boulder</i>	<b>Andrew Frazer</b> <i>Vanderbilt University</i>	<b>Stewart Miller</b> <i>University of Mississippi</i>	<b>Adams Sinks</b> <i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>
<b>Mehdi Azamtarrahanian</b> <i>Washington University</i>	<b>Andy Gaither</b> <i>Southern Methodist University</i>	<b>Judson Mulherin</b> <i>Purdue University</i>	<b>Johnny Sisk</b> <i>Northwestern University</i>
<b>Dan Banko</b> <i>University of Alabama</i>	<b>Mason Guiffre</b> <i>University of Alabama</i>	<b>Greg Nanney</b> <i>Washington University</i>	<b>Kevin Small</b> <i>Washington University</i>
<b>Michael Bass</b> <i>Vanderbilt University</i>	<b>Ryan Hall</b> <i>Vanderbilt University</i>	<b>Matt Neal</b> <i>University of the South</i>	<b>Dominick Smith</b> <i>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>
<b>Chase Breland</b> <i>Belmont University</i>	<b>Tom Hancock</b> <i>University of Tennessee - Knoxville</i>	<b>Patton Nelson</b> <i>Charleston Southern University</i>	<b>Carlton Stewart</b> <i>University of Georgia</i>
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<b>Chris Camp</b> <i>Auburn University</i>	<b>Sean Holland</b> <i>Georgia Southern University</i>	<b>KB Parkes</b> <i>University of Mississippi</i>	<b>Gabe Suico</b> <i>Beloit College</i>
<b>Jason Campbell</b> <i>Tennessee Technological University</i>	<b>Chip Howorth</b> <i>University of Mississippi</i>	<b>John Peek</b> <i>Rice University</i>	<b>Taylor Sutherland</b> <i>University of the South</i>
<b>Peyton Cooke</b> <i>College of William and Mary</i>	<b>Tee Isenhour</b> <i>Southern Methodist University</i>	<b>Jay Pettus</b> <i>University of Alabama</i>	<b>Andrew Thomison</b> <i>Williams College</i>
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# Commentary

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## Comment by Editor Incites Rivalry

Junior Schoolers seen to have nothing better to do than whine about Bell Ringer's superiority



**"Behold the Superfluous: They are always sick. They vomit their gall, and call it a newspaper."**

F.W. Nietzsche (1844-1900)

*Top of the Hill staff gets creative: (left) Uses magazine to write ransom-like note to the Bell Ringer editor-in-chief; (above) gives homage to a German philosopher; and (below) paraphrases a quotation on the entrance of Rome—also used in the movie Gladiator: "When Top of the Hill falls, the orbit of the earth will fall"*

### By the BELL RINGER Staff

What began as an unoriginal quip has exploded into an all-out rivalry between the schools two mainstream newspapers, the **BELL RINGER** and **TOP OF THE HILL**.

As Gabe Roth, Editor-in-Chief of the Bell Ringer, and his section editors finished having their picture for the yearbook taken on Wednesday morning, April 26, Gabe noticed, out of the corner of his eye, a throng of junior schoolers approaching the steps in the courtyard to assume the position for their picture.

Hidden among the taller boys in the crowd was Teddy Twang, an eighth grader, leading his troops toward the steps. Roth realized that this bunch of ruffians was none other than the staff of Top of the Hill, the middle school newspaper that comes out once in a while.

Taken aback by the obvious air of arrogance displayed by their coat and tie dress and swank demeanor, Roth called out, "Hey, it's the Top of the Hill staff! Look how cool they are!"

"Top of the Hill?" he continued. "More like Flop of the Hill!"

For the Microbe journalists, that last comment was the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, or the invasion of Poland or Kuwait because that was the beginning of an all-out war.

In the weeks following Roth's perceived viceral attack (on not only the paper itself but also on everyone associated with it and even its readership), Taiwang and company

got angrier and angrier, as they wondered how they could recover from such a witty and curt remark. They were utterly hopeless.

Enter creativity, which is a characteristic that seems to peak at around age 13 or 14. Using the new Publications' Room facility in their recently renovated Massey Hall, the junior schoolers began to draw pictures on their dry erase board in that room.

**WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE**  
A certain group of pre-pubescent boys who happen to crack their voice

Known for saying, "I want my mommy" and "Why is my body going through so many changes" a.k.a. Top of the Hill Staff

Roth drew caricatures of Editor-in-Chief Ted E. Tinewang (short and with a tennis racket), Entertain-

\$45 more for their than we did for each of ours.

"But on another note, the 2000 Bell is almost finished--on time for the first time in recent memory--the 'crobes have their own publications' room, and the Carter Building first floor with its publications' room is almost complete.

"MBA publications have improved this year by an unbelievable amount. However, there is still a ways to go. Silly rivalries like the one between the Bell Ringer and Top of the Hill, the Bell Ringer and the Bell Breaker, the Bell Ringer and the Bell, basically between the Bell Ringer and every on-campus publication besides the Archives, are okay as long as they're in jest and they increase interest. Considering the amount of money MBA has put into other parts of the school, and considering how easily MBA publications could become both enjoyed by more students and nationally recognized, the school better go all-out for the new Publications Room in Carter. So next year, people can dedicate more time to putting out quality newspapers and less time fueling silly rivalries."

Twang could not be reached for comment; he was busy "playing tennis."

Though the "rivalry" continued into mid-May with more notes, and more board-writing, it is hope of the Bell Ringer staff that the 'crobes learn from one of Mr. Gaither's favorite aphorisms:

Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

**UBI TDH CADIT,  
ORBIS TERRÆ  
CADET.**

The first day after this idea came to the surface, this message appeared:

### WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE:

One certain senior  
who happens to be  
Editor of the Bell Ringer.

Known for saying, 'Flop of the  
Hill.'  
a.k.a. Gabe Roth.

Under the "Flop of the Hill" line was a caricature of Gabe. It was not very flattering.

As soon as Roth regarded the ridiculous death threat, he went to action and decided to edit the text and draw some art of his own. It said:

ment Editor Charlie Pate (belt buckle the size of Texas), and Staff Writer Ben Pote (formerly of bowl cut fame) to complete his artistic endeavor.

An unidentified accomplice was seen with Roth, but no one knows who it was.

Roth doesn't condemn the so-called "rivalry," but he doesn't endorse it either.

"I think it's important to note," Roth said, "that the Bell Ringer has put out six issues this year, as opposed to five last year, four the year before, and three by both Top of the Hill and the Bell Breaker this year.

"The Bell hasn't even done half as well, as they've only put out one issue of theirs, and they charged

## 1999-2000 BELL RINGER Staff

Editor-in-Chief, 1999-2000  
Assistant Editor, 2000  
Entertainment Editor, 1999  
Sports Editor, 1999-2000  
Photography Editor, 1999-2000  
Layout Editor, 1999  
Layout Editor, 2000  
News and Illustrations Editor, 1999  
News Editor, 2000  
Opinions Editor, 1999  
Business Editor, 1999-2000

Special Assignments  
Cartooning  
Car Reviews  
Movie Reviews  
Theater Reviews  
Writers

Advisors

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Thompson Paine  
Johnny Sisk  
Michael Pass  
Steve Syverud  
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Jamie Sperling  
Andrew Frazer  
Andrew Gray  
Robert Womack  
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Michael Pass, Andrew Gray  
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Mr. Julian Jones  
Mr. Jason Callen

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to [ringer@montgomerybell.com](mailto:ringer@montgomerybell.com). These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

The staff of **The Bell Ringer** prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Eveready Printing in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

# Editorials

## Hopes for the New Carter Building

By Gabe Roth

### 1999-2000 Editor-in-Chief

Come one, come all, and welcome to the grand opening of the new Carter Building. This time around, the building is three stories tall, has more classroom space, a student center, and a publications' room.

There are so many questions being asked about

every month, and section editors who can motivate their staff to turn in good work. The Bell is not my department, but if in the future it's half as good as it is going to be this year, then MBA has something to be proud of.

The student center will get dozens of students out of the library, which currently and ironically is the

*Photographs of the demolition of the old Carter Building provided by Abeyou Development*



*Demolition. There goes the history office, and so section of classrooms and 2 bathrooms.*

this new colossus. It is hard to answer them all at once. (Are the toilets going to be automatic flush? Where are the weather vanes going to go? Next to the new sandial? Is the history office going to be more than unused closet space? And what about a nice long fire escape? But I sure can try.

First of all, the publications' room will be, well, a publications' room. No longer will it be an out-of-the-way addition to a senior room (Third Floor of Ball, early 1996-1999) or a dumping ground for old yearbook pictures (1999-present). It will be painted in bright colors by bright people in order to give personality to the one aspect of MBA that can be great but isn't yet.

(Yes, the **Archives** does win awards nationally just about all the time, but they haven't had to suffer in the Ball Building since the staff does its work in the corner of the MBA universe. Dr. Batten's classroom.)

The publications' room will not be under-technologized—it will have angle computers, printers, and scanners, all of which are necessary for the **Bell** and **Bell Ringer**. Nor will it be undermanned. Next year's Bell Ringer will have a large staff consisting of staff writers who write one article on their assigned topic per month,

place on campus where students can sit and talk, and into more comfortable chairs where they won't disturb the seventh graders who always seem to invade



*Only a pile of bricks rubble can be seen for only \$199.99 - \$463.00 removed.*

the upperclassmen's space in the library. Magazines will be read, parties will be planned (but not those east parties), fantasy football, baseball, and basketball teams will be rated, and NCAA Tournament brackets will be

**Continued on page 5**

## Questioning the Academic Standards

**Students—average, below, and above—each feel the strains of the workload at MBA and hope that the administration will address key issues in the near future**

### Privilege List Hurts Average Students

By Jay Lovell

It's understandable that, in order to set a respectable standard for anything worth respecting, there must be expectations and qualifiers. Sometimes, however, the qualifiers seem misguided and counter-productive.

At MBA, one must draw the line that separates students worthy of receiving privileges and those who, although they may be arguably close, arrive just short of that mark. The 86.0 overall average that must be earned in order for students to meet the requirements of the privilege list does its job by providing a cut off. But the catch is that students must also have above an 80 for each individual class, diminish-

ing the chances of some hard working students who meet the demands of an 86 average but, who are unable to get it together in one class.

So instead, demoralized from receiving no reward for their efforts, students who have managed better than a 86 average muddle back to study hall, for at least one quarter of hell. They are subjected a much worse study environment than the students who have gotten all 80s. Those lucky students have the freedom to ask teachers questions, or during their free periods, work on completing one more dreaded paper, which they are able to write on their own time, without having to get a note for *permission to study* from every

teacher in the school. Or maybe they've finished all their homework, feel they deserve a break and just want to hang out in the new Ingram Lecture Hall with a couple of guys who are also relieved that they have escaped the "wrath of study hall." For some, who are always consistent in each of their classes (or maybe just picked all the right classes that year), the incentive to keep their grades up in order to get out of study hall is not an issue. But for others, who are able to consistently manage the 86, having a pair of 90s and a pair of 88s with 76 in history, the system definitely promotes frustration, leading to carelessness. End result: the smart get smarter and the average get the shaft.

### Hopes for the New Carter Building and Beyond

Continued from page 4

filled out.

(I did not mention the senior room as a place on campus where students can sit and talk, because if while they are sitting and talking, they happen to

Board of Trustees to the campus.

I've been at MBA for six years, and I can count on one half of one hand the number of times I have seen any member of the Board interact with an MBA student. I realize that it is the administration's job to be in touch with the student body's needs, but some of the Board should still be more visible.

So the Carter Building will serve as a bridge between the two, student

ings will reveal themselves to all. Pulitzer Prize winners will not read their whole novels to the assembly.

And if the Titans go to the Super Bowl, the whole school is going with them, at least to the parade. Maybe they should call it the Compromise Building.

With all the new classroom space, more courses will be offered at MBA. We have a Rehearsal Room, but no acting class (until the 2000-2001 school year, when one finally is starting). We have a dark room, but no photography class. We have the great outdoors (assuming no more buildings are built), but no ecology or environmental class. A student should be able to sit in on Curriculum Committee meetings and help teachers give more options to students, most of whom could take English IV and one other class their senior year and have all their graduation requirements complete. The new Carter Building will be home to these new classes, from Psychology to Journalism, and help increase awareness by the student body of the world beyond MBA.

The Carter Building will be MBA's fourth greatest asset—behind a Board of Trustees that will be increasingly active in student life, a faculty that will be able to utilize the new facilities to broaden students' desire to learn, and a student body that will be able to realize its full potential.



Once the dust settles, a new, more useful building will be standing

hit the remote to watch, perhaps, their friends who might for some reason be on TV supporting a certain local Super Bowl team, then the nice relaxing place becomes a vortex for demerits to be assessed to unsuspected and innocent seniors. If you give the seniors a room with a TV in it, they're going to want to turn it on to watch their friends ditching school. It only makes sense.)

The most impressive thing about the Carter Building will be its uncanny ability to attract members of the MBA

and board member. Board members will be on campus more often than for an occasional early morning breakfast or late evening jam session (I realize that they are busy, but... priorities?) and discuss their slants on issues concerning MBA students.

The result of this union will be felt for generations. Students will be able to wear sneakers on dress-down days. Spring Break t-shirts will not have to be full of innuendoes; the hidden mean-

### Exams

## Weighted Too Heavily

By Nick Reid

With the month of May rapidly coming to a halt, MBA's time-honored tradition of spring exams has come and gone and long since stopped circulating in the back of many student's minds.

Frantic preparation, sleepless nights, and one day cram sessions accompanied these three hour tests.

So why do MBA students take exams so seriously?

Because exams here are important. Too important.

The work that students do in 16 weeks of a course cannot be condensed into a three-hour test. Eighty days of intense coursework at MBA means more than three hours in a blue book. What about bad test takers? Aren't they punished enough on standardized tests?

Why make a conscientious, hardworking student who performs well for 80 days suffer at the hands of one test?

Students with an average of 90 or above should be exempt from exams whether they are in regular, honors, or AP classes.

Exams don't punish poor students; they punish the good ones. With an average in the mid- to high-nineties, one's grade can only go down. A student must write a near perfect exam or watch weeks of hard work go up in smoke.

A good exam for a student in the high seventies, however, can help him boost his grade into the eighties, however. This feat is rare.

MBA is a serious academic challenge and getting into college has become an extremely competitive process. With the plethora of standardized testing required for college these days, we have plenty of exams to worry about. Let's not make a difficult situation any worse.

It is time for our school to review this important issue.

## 1999-2000 Bell Ringer Sponsors

We at THE BELL RINGER would like to thank our sponsors this year for supporting us in our efforts to be informative and entertaining for our readership, both MBA students and members of the MBA community at-large

To place an add in the Bell Ringer in the future, contact MBA at 298-5514.

We would not have been able to put out as many issues as we did this year (six; the most since 1996-1997) if it were not for the generosity of the following businesses:

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# Class of 2000



## The Senior Prank: A Photoessay from the Beach

Pranksters (clockwise, from upper left): Some took the time to relax; others wanted to connect with nature and their friends in the animal kingdom. The Class of 2000 pulled out all the stops for their senior prank, including turning the bed of Wesley Wallace's pick-up truck into a fourth baby pool, and when it was time to clean up, even the administration pitched in. The greatest excitement of the day, besides the 2 a.m. security guards, the 5:30 a.m. visit from the Belle Meade Police—followed shortly by an appearance from Mr. Gooz—was provided by the water balloon launcher; underclassmen (and the Wallace Bulldogs) didn't stand a chance. For those who thought last year's prank could not be topped, the Class of 2000 came through: everyone was involved, making our destroyed (borders the eyes of a few freshmen who had to take a little swim in the baby pool after thinking they could outdistance the seniors), the clean-up was easy, and it was once and wild time.

